



BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

Library

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1965.

and

Incorporating the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BRIERFIELD,
Lancashire.

June, 1966.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Brierfield Urban
District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration,
the following report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and
Public Health Administration in the Urban District of
Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

It includes various matters which have affected Public
Health during the year. All records and statistics are
being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as
practicable be continuous and complete.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. BARLOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1965 according to the Rate Book was 2739, the rateable value being £181,845 and the sum represented by a penny rate of £713.0.0.

The social conditions were generally quite good. There is full employment, the main industry being cotton. The manufacture of bottle tops is also carried on.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1965 is 7,270.

BIRTHS. 97 Live Births belonging to the District occurred during 1964, 43 Males, 54 females. Of these 5, 2 male and 3 female were illegitimate.

2 stillbirths, were recorded (legitimate).

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 202.
Total Live and Stillbirths. 100.

Comparative particulars with regard to live births over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
Total Live Births.	100	111	114	102	116
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 estim. populatn.	13.3	15.1	15.6	14.3	16.7
Adjusted Rate.	14.8	16.8	17.3	15.7	18.3

The Illegitimate Live Births represent 5.1% of the total live births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

a)	All infants per 1000 live births.	30.9
b)	Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	32.6
c)	Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	Nil.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

a)	Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.	4
b)	Mortality Rate per 1000 live births.	30.9

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Rate per 1000 live births.	10.3
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PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Rate per 1000 total births.	30.3
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Infant mortality over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
30.9	18.2	17.7	19.6	77.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

- a) Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.
b) Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and Stillbirths.

Nil.

DEATHS.

107 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1964 as follows:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths within the Urban District.	29	21	50
Deaths outside the Urban District in Hospitals, Institutions etc.	24	33	57
	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>107.</u>

Death Rate(Cause Groups 10-15),
Malignant Neoplasms etc.

3.03.

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
Total Deaths.	107	112	82	77	109
Crude Death Rate per 1000 estmd. population.	14.7	15.4	11.3	10.8	15.7
Adjusted Rate.	14.7	15.7	11.5	10.5	15.2

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1965.

Causes of Death at different periods of Life during 1965.

Columns for the ages 4 wks. and under 1 yr; 1-5 yrs; 35-45 yrs. have been omitted as no death occurred in these age groups.

Cause of death.	Sex.	Total all Ages.	Under 4 wks.	Ages in Years.				
				25-	45-	55-	65-	75 & Over.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F.	3	-	-	-	1	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	M.	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
	F.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	M.	7	-	-	1	2	3	1
	F.	4	-	-	-	2	1	1
Diabetes.	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	M.	9	-	-	-	4	3	2
	F.	14	-	-	1	-	5	8
Coronary Disease, Angina.	M.	13	-	-	2	3	4	4
	F.	12	-	-	-	4	3	5
Other Heart Disease.	M.	4	-	1	-	-	1	2
	F.	6	-	-	1	-	2	3
Other Circulatory Disease.	M.	3	-	-	-	1	1	1
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia.	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis.	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer Stomach & Duerdenum.	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis.	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malformations.	M.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Defined & Ill-Defined Diseases.	M.	4	-	-	-	1	1	2
	F.	3	1	-	-	-	-	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	M.	2	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
All other Accidents.	M.	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide.	M.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total All Causes.	M.	53	1	1	6	16	14	15
	F.	54	2	-	3	8	16	25

TUBERCULOSIS.

Four cases were entered in the register, one female aged 50, (Transfer from Burnley), and 3 males aged 51, 45, and 36. One case was removed from the register as recovered.

CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1965.

On the Register at the end of December, 1965, there were 23 cases of Tuberculosis (18 Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:-

	5- 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	Over 65	TOTAL.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	3	3	7	3	1	1	18
Non-Pulmonary								
Cervical Glands	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Perianal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Renal Tract	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	1	3	4	7	4	2	2	23

As all these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer, no direct information is available about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest Clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK.

This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Meadow Street, Preston, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following:-

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The Urban District is serviced by ambulances and sitting cars.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. The Infant Welfare Centre for the Urban District is held weekly under the supervision of Nurse Bush, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE. There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Per 1,000 Estimated Population.

	<u>Crude Live Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate.</u>
Mean of 5 years 1960-1964.	15.0	14.2
Year 1965.	13.3	14.7
Year 1964.	15.1	15.4
Increase or decrease in 1965, on 5 years average 1960-1964.	-1.7	+ 0.5
Change on Previous Year.	-1.8	- 0.7

	<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE.</u>		<u>DEATH RATE.</u>
	<u>per 1000 Live Births.</u>	<u>Per 1000 Live and Stillbirths.</u>	<u>of Infants under 1 yr. per 1000 Live Births</u>
Mean of 5 years.1960-1964.	1.8	1.81	29.2
Year 1965.	Nil.	Nil.	30.9
Year 1964.	9.01	9.08	18.2
Increase or decrease in 1965 on 5 years average 1960-1964.	+9.01	+9.18	+ 1.7
Previous Year.	+9.01	+9.18	+12.7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

All cases kept at home. No deaths.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES.	<u>Age Groups.</u>					
		-1	1/3	3/5	5/10	10/15	Over 65.
Pneumonia	2	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	52	4	13	20	15	-	-
Scarlet Fever	24	-	1	7	14	2	-
	78	4	15	27	29	2	1

MOBILE X-RAY UNIT.

The Mass Radiography unit visited Brierfield during the period 20th July - August 3rd.

A previous visit to deal with people in industry was made in January.

2322 people were X-rayed and the following significant abnormalities were discovered.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis requiring immediate treatment.	3	-	3
Tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision.	1	-	1
Bronchial carcinoma.	1	-	1
Sarcoidosis.	-	1	1
Cardio-vascular lesions acquired.	3	2	5

The Medical Director reports that the 3 cases of active tuberculosis shown above give a rate of 1.3 per thousand X-rayed compared with 4 cases in 1962, a rate of 1.7 per thousand, this result being similar to the national trend.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH, CLEANSING AND SEWAGE COMMITTEE:-

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Rawlinson, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Arnold, Councillors Bentham, Brown, Clegg, Edmondson, Greenwood, Hardacre, Kabrna, Marsh, Nolan, Mrs. Reynard, Woolstencroft, Woodhead.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Arthur Barlow. M.B., Ch.B.

John S. Haworth.
Certificate of R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B.
R.S.H. Certificate for Inspection of
Meat and Other Foods,
Smoke Inspector,
Sanitary Science etc.

Duties:

All matters coming within the purview of a Public Health Inspector including supervision of refuse collection. Appointed as Officer under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Appointed as an Officer under the Shops Act by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLY. Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of the North Calder Water Board and there were no new sources of supply during the year. All dwellinghouses within the District, except one, are supplied direct from public mains. The one exception, which is supplied by spring water, is an isolated farm dwelling and is a considerable distance from the nearest public main.

SUPPLIES TO HOUSES. The number of houses supplied direct from public mains is 2,794.

WATER SAMPLING.

Public Mains. Number of Bacteriological examinations. 19.

Five of these, from three different houses were reported on adversely but follow up samples proved to be satisfactory.

Several informal samples showed considerable amounts of deposit and the Board was called upon to flush out the mains on occasion. There were many complaints of discoloured water towards the end of the year and every effort is being made to trace the source of the trouble and to deal with it.

SWIMMING BATHS. There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within the District.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the Disposal Works at the lowest part of the District. Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. The effluent from the works is discharged into Pendle Water.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens. Nil.

Number of Pail Closets. There are five only, two of them at isolated dwellings, the other three on the golf course. These are emptied weekly by Council employees.

Number of Fresh Water Closets. 2,295.

Number of Waste Water Closets. 681.

Conversions during the Year.

Number of Pail Closets to fresh water closets.	Nil.
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets.	27.
Number of houses on the water carriage system.	2790.

Chief Sanitary requirement of the District.

Continued action on the conversion of waste water closets. Improvement of the many old dwellinghouses which require hot water, baths and other amenities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. This is carried out by direct labour with a Shelvoke and Drewry 16/18 c.yd. Fore and Aft Tipper equipped with a power press. Domestic refuse and refuse from shops, factories etc., is collected weekly and disposed of at the Burnley Tip by arrangement with the County Borough Council.

Number of Moveable Ashbins. 3,059.

SALVAGE. Collection of salvage continued during the year and although the amount disposed of is higher than that for the previous year it is still much lower than for the years 1959 - 1962 and is indeed much lower than it should be. The following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year. Scrap metal is not included as most of the scrap sold had been obtained from Council properties and the revenue therefore, credited to the Housing Fund.

<u>Weights.</u>	<u>Materials.</u>	<u>Amount realised.</u>
T. c. q.		£. s. d.
94. 8. 2	Waste paper.	816. 18. 9
9. 2	Rags & string.	7. 2. 1
94.18. 0		824. 0. 10

Figures for the six previous years are as follows:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>	<u>Revenue.</u>
	T. c. q.	£. s. d.
1959.	133. 1. 0	1000. 15. 6
1960.	131. 2. 3	1085. 15. 1
1961.	148. 18. 0	1186. 18. 11
1962.	122. 7. 9	961. 10. 7
1963.	77. 1. 3	601. 0. 6
1964.	71. 10. 2	574. 19. 7

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING 1965.

No. of complaints received and investigated (not including complaints re refuse collection service)	311
No. of complaints received and dealt with re refuse collection service and blocked street gullies.	364
No. of requests for additional collections.	367
Visits to Smoke Control area (proposed)	2
Industrial plant.	5
Smoke Nuisances.	10
Smoke Observations.	13
Sanitary accommodation etc. in factories & workshops.	62
Bakehouses.	13
Unfit food.	3
Food preparation premises (not bakehouses)	172
Water supplies.	31
Complaints re-visits.	693
Infectious Diseases Enquiries.	2
Filthy verminous premises.	4
Public Sanitary Accommodation.	4
Council Houses.	19
Animals.	7
Housing Act. Inspections.	26
Re-inspections.	67
Overcrowding.	4
Interviews owners etc.	114
Rats-Surveys (Sewer treatment)	9
Rats/Mice.	120
Other Infestations.	30
Noise-Industrial.	33
Noise-Domestic.	3
O.S.R.R. Act.	134
Shops Act.	215
Schools.	4
Refuse Accumulations.	856
Houses in Multiple Occupation.	3
Drains Tested.	45
Water Samples taken.	27
Milk Samples taken.	46
Ice Cream Samples taken.	6
Informal Notices Served.	92
Informal Notices Remedied.	82
Formal Notices Served.	43
Formal Notices Remedied.	35

DISINFESTATION. Complaints were received of infestation by cockroaches from 22 dwellinghouses. These were treated by a servicing firm.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. There are no caravans or sites licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936, and no licenses have been applied for under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951. Two shops were licensed under this Act. The premises are maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

H O U S I N G .

CONDITION. Most of the houses are stone built in terraces and about 80% of them are owner occupied. The majority are well maintained but there are some falling slowly into a state of disrepair. Amenities in these older houses are lacking. The more recently built brick houses include detached bungalows, and semi detached houses.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES. There are 16 such houses, mainly owner/occupied, well maintained and in very good condition.

NEW BUILDINGS. During the year eighteen houses were completed by private enterprise, and sixteen flats by the Council.

OVER-CROWDING. No new cases were reported during the year, and none was proved. The situation in some of the houses occupied by Pakistanis is somewhat obscure.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 123
- b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made. 304
- c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit. 51
2. Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which
 - a) Demolition, Clearance and Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 10
 - b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made. -

REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR.

- a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. 26
- b) Public Health Act - action after service of formal notice, houses in which defects were remedied,
 - (i) By Owners. 4
 - (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.
- c) Housing Act, 1957 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16) houses made fit,
 - (i) By Owners. 1
 - (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959 - Standard Grants.

Action during the year.	Number of Schemes.	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected.
Submitted to and approved by Local Authority.		
a) to full standard.	21	21
b) to reduce standard.	56	56
c) Work completed.	65	65

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Distributors is as follows:-

a) Dairies in the District.	5
b) Premises outside the District.	7
c) Shops in the District other than Dairies.	34

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and thus responsible for the issue of Licences.

MILK SAMPLING.

During the year 42 samples of milk were obtained, 25 of which were Raw Milk (Tuberculin Tested), 13, Pasteurised and 4 Sterilised. These samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Failed Methylene Blue Test.	7
Void (guinea pigs died)	2
Brucella Ring Test positive.	4
" " " equivocal.	2
Brucella Abortus Isolated.	3
All other tests, Methylene Blue, Phosphatase, Brolorical, Turbidity etc., were satisfactory and Antibiotics were not detected.	

Any sample for which an unsatisfactory report was received was repeated and in each case referred to the producer Local Authority concerned, and/or The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES. Seven samples of Ice Cream were obtained during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, all of which were Grade I.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES. There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the District.

FOOD PREMISES. The number of Food Premises in the District at the end of 1965 was as follows:

<u>Type of Business.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
General Grocers.	31
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Including wet fish)	6
Butchers and Cooked Meats.	14
Bakers and Confectioners.	9
Fried Fish Shops.	6
Sugar Confectionery, Ice Cream, Minerals etc.	16
Licensed Hotels.	10
Snack Bars etc.	18

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under Local Acts.

<u>Type of Business.</u>	<u>No. Registered.</u>	<u>No. of inspections of registered premises during the year.</u>
Butchers and Meat Products.	14	43
Bakers & Confectioners.	7	24
Grocers & Mixed.	16	51
Sweets & Soft Drinks.	15	47

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Particulars of inspections made under this Act are given on Page 13 of this report.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Number of Factory chimneys in the District	5
Observations taken during the year.	13
Smoke nuisances discovered.	Nil.

Informal action has begun under the Clean Air Act, which should lead to the first area being declared in 1966.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full treatment of the sewers was carried out and thereafter a "follow-up" treatment. From the number of rats found on the surface and on the screens at the sewage works this appears to have been very successful.

The following properties were treated:-

Dwelling houses.	Other non agricultural properties including Local Authority Property and Business premises.	Agricultural Premises.
84	7	1

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Auth.	3	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	5	47	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Auth.(excluding out-worker's premises)	4	9	-	-
Total.	52	60	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases.)

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Insptr.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7.)	-	-	-	-	-
a)Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b)Unsuitable or defective.	4	2	-	-	-
c)Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Workers.	-	-	-	-	-
	4	2	-	-	-

Outworkers. Sections 110 and 111.
No outworkers were engaged.

COMMENT.

1964 was reported as being a year of changes, 1965 must be regarded as a year of review and consolidation. Much remains to be done in all fields. Records require attention, far too frequently clerical and statistical work gets behind, being put off because of outside calls. It is desirable that a Public Health Inspector should spend as much time as possible on the practical problems of his job but some clerical work is essential. Nevertheless the amount of paper work is increasing and I think the time has come when a new look should be taken at reports, figures, methods of payment and in particular the legislation.

I have yet to be convinced of the necessity of adding up the number "defects" in an unfit house to a figure of one representing a choked gully, and referring to the total figure as defects or nuisances discovered. It may well be years before the unfit house is dealt with. It may be closed, and if in the middle of a row may remain an eyesore to passers by, a source of shame to the neighbours, each pane of glass a target and a challenge to the accuracy of all stone-throwing boys, and year after year have its statistics carried forward as being unabated.

DUMPING.

The Council has during the year been very concerned about the dumping of old vehicles. The official circular on this subject would appear to give a full and adequate explanation about the disposal of such vehicles, but for the smaller local authorities there is considerable difficulty. There just is no way of disposing of a vehicle from which the owner or a host of unauthorised persons have removed the useful parts, other than removing it at Local authority expense to the local authority's tip, if any. This authority has no tip. My personal opinion is that the motor trade who generally speaking do quite well out of motor cars should themselves operate a scheme to ensure that all vehicles together with log books return to the trade. There are too many people dabbling in the repair of old vehicles, repairing them without any premises, and trading presumably without informing H.M. Collector of Taxes. There can be no objection to the "do it yourself" man but the dealers at present outside the legitimate trade should be registered in the same way that scrap dealers are registered. Thanks are due to the local constabulary for assistance in tracing owners of vehicles.

Dumping of other materials has caused serious nuisance during the year. There are some people who obviously go to a lot of trouble, presumably in the dark hours, to dispose of old furniture, building materials, beds etc. by dumping them on private or on public land. This is utterly selfish and shows a complete lack of thought and disregard for the comfort and well being of neighbours. It is unnecessary trouble because the Council has agreed to collect such unwanted materials without charge. The railway banking has become a dump, the delph at Roseland Avenue which should be a beauty spot has become a tip, all because some anti-social being can't be bothered. It would be easy to say the cause is laziness but less effort is needed to request assistance from the Town Hall than to heave junk privily over a high fence or down a valley. It is a great pity the culprits cannot be brought before the court and a punishment found that would fit the crime. We could do with a "Clean Up Brierfield" week.

SMOKE CONTROL.

It is pleasing to record that towards the end of the year the Council agreed in principle to the creation of a Smoke Control Area. This will mean a lot of work but it is work well worth while. I am tempted however to observe that some of the work involved is unnecessary and further, when as has occurred,

Local Authorities are taken to task for failing to implement the Clean Air Act to add that the legislation and orders on Smoke Control could be very much simplified. There seems no justification for complaining that a Local Authority has failed to act on permissive legislation. If the Government is really in earnest about Clean Air, the least they can do is to make the act obligatory, but a better and easier way would be to scrap the existing legislation, and simply declare that after a given date it should be an offence for a dealer to sell and for a private householder to buy coal and that other consumers should be licensed. The complicated and burdensome machinery for making orders could be scrapped and if it is necessary to subsidise owners or occupiers this could be done by way of recovery on Income Tax as was done in the case of property repairs. There are those who hold the opinion that since it is accepted that smoke is a nuisance then the author of the nuisance should remedy it.

The present methods of achieving clean air are too slow and cumbersome. The Government own the coal, let them declare a National fuel policy and restrict the sale of coal.

If coal were not available there would be no possibility of burning it during the hours of darkness when the Inspector is not likely to be about. I have no proof that this in fact happens: it is one of those stories that begin with "They say", but it is a story that many believe.

HOUSING.

A few houses have been dealt with under the Housing Act but the situation has changed but little in the year. Houses that were empty a year ago are still empty and adjoining property owners have difficulty in selling. Apart from realising the impossibility of making the neighbourhood clean and tidy, would-be buyers suspect the worst of adjoining empty houses and fear cockroaches, dampness, burst pipes and the possibility of trespassers. Powers to requisition should be available.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The service suffered from too many changes in personnel, bad weather and mechanical failures with the one vehicle. The dark hours and consequent reduction in effectual working hours added a further complication. A vehicle was hired two days a week to deal with the collection of unwanted furniture and to clear the shops. A new vehicle to be used jointly with the Surveyor's Department ordered early in the year had not been delivered when the year ended. A little progress has been made with the paper sack system but much remains to be done. It is a clean and efficient system and it is regrettable that it should be held up as it is in many cases, by a mere reluctance to accept something new. One refuse vehicle can just about cope with a weekly refuse collection but whenever there is a breakdown in the service for whatever reason it takes some weeks to get straight again.

In the body of the report there is a figure of 364 complaints received re failure to empty bins and concerning blocked street gullies. This appears high but it means in fact that the residents are accustomed to a good service and this number is in fact equivalent to one complaint per month for every 100 bins.

The impression is given however at times, that the refuse collection service of other local authorities is never affected by holidays, snow or breakdowns.

The grass is always greener in the next field. It is however, impossible to keep one vehicle permanently on the road. There have been many major and minor breakdowns and during the year, on

several occasions there has been a shortage of labour and some householders having converted to central heating find that the amount of refuse has increased as they are no longer able to burn any.

There were 367 requests made for additional collections ranging from the odd settee or bag of builders refuse to almost a whole houseful of furniture and effects.

My colleagues in the Burnley Rural District and in Nelson Borough have been most helpful in loaning vehicles and are deserving of the highest praise for their kind co-operation.

WATER SUPPLY.

There was much criticism of the water supply during the year. Although most of the samples proved bacteriologically satisfactory the water was discoloured from time to time and was claimed to stain clothing on wash days. Work was being carried out at the filters and it is anticipated there will be no further cause for complaint. An unsatisfactory sample was obtained from one house on two occasions although other samples proved satisfactory. This house will continue to be a regular sampling point.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES.

These are kept clean by the Council's Staff. They lack wash basins but there is an understandable reluctance to provide additional facilities that are not 100% vandal proof. On one visit to the 4 W.C.'s adjoining the Town Hall it was observed that the following work was required: reglazing of one door, one new lock, refixing of a door, replacement of one seat.

CONCLUSION.

The co-operation given to the Health Department by the Surveyor, other members of the Council's staff and the Engineer of the Water Board is here gratefully acknowledged.

J. S. HAWORTH.

Public Health Inspector.

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